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(*b*) whether the procedure required by section 11 has been insisted upon by Government in the case of schemes under section 12 and if not, on what grounds?

A.—(i) A statement [a] showing the town-planning schemes is placed on the table. Provisions of sections 8 to 12 do not apply to town improvement schemes which are undertaken under section 6 (1) of the Town-Planning Act, 1920.

(ii) (*a*) An extract from the rules issued by the Government under section 44 of the Town-Planning Act, 1920, in this regard is placed on the table. The Government have no reason to suppose that these rules have not been observed.

(*b*) The wording of section 12 clearly indicates that the procedure prescribed in sections 9 to 11 need not be followed in the case of schemes called for under that section.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" The Government state that they have no reason to suppose that these rules have not been observed. I do not think it is a correct statement . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will have to take some other opportunity to make his assertions ; I cannot allow the hon. Member to do so during question time."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" I may say that that observation . . . "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Member will kindly resume his seat."

Forests

Execution of working plans by the Forest Department.

* 1704 *Q.*—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether a survey or collection of statistics in regard to the approximate number of timber trees, fuel trees, etc., in the reserved forests of the Madras Presidency has ever been made, and if so, when and with what results ;

(*b*) what steps have been taken to remedy the defects as to the preparation and carrying out of the working plans, regeneration and sylviculture noted in the Forest Department Administration Report for 1926-27 ; and

(*c*) whether Government have considered the advisability of entrusting the work to each conservator instead of entrusting it to one working plans' conservator for all the circles with their varied conditions?

A.—(*a*) No attempt has ever been made to ascertain the approximate number of timber trees, fuel trees, etc., in the reserved forests nor is it possible to do so.

(*b*) The steps taken to remedy the defects in the preparation and carrying out of the working plans are—

(1) The preparation of important working plans is entrusted to the regular working plans staff.

a Printed as Appendix I on pages 79-81 infra.

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(2) Control records of all working plans are being scrutinized by the Working Plans Conservator. This officer has recently issued a circular to all the other Conservators giving instructions for the preparation and checking of control returns, etc.

(c) The working plans circle was formed with the main object of doing away with the suggested procedure which had been in force for years with the results referred to in item (b) of the question.

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—" With reference to (b), may I enquire whether in former times, no regeneration or working plans were prepared at all in different circles ? There are five circles and under each circle there are many districts."

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" As far as I can say, yes."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether the Chenat Nair Forest area worked on the working plan system ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Notice."

Working of the saw-mills under Government.

* 1705 Q.—Mr. J. A. SALDANHA : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to place before the House a statement showing—

(a) the several saw-mills established by Government in the Forest department ;

(b) what establishment is employed in connexion with each of the saw-mills and its cost per annum ;

(c) what the estimates of receipts and expenditure are in connexion with each for 1928–29 ;

(d) what the profits and losses from a commercial point of view have been up to the close of the first six months of the year 1928–29 ; and

(e) whether it has been found more profitable by selling the timber from reserved forests to private individuals instead of sawing the timber at Government saw-mills ?

A.—(a) The saw mills established by Government in the Forest Department are as follows :—

(1) Olavakkot Saw Mill, Chenat Nair Commercial concern.
(2) Beypore Saw Mill, Nilambur Commercial concern.
(3) Top Slip Saw Mill, Mount Stuart Commercial concern.
(4) Chedleth Saw Mill, Wynaad Division.
(5) Parappa Saw Mill, South Mangalore Division.

(b) The establishment employed in connexion with each of the saw mills and its annual cost is given in Annexure A [a].

(c) The estimates of receipts and expenditure in connexion with each for 1928–29 are furnished in Annexure B [a].

(d) The audit reports for the first half of 1928–29 have not yet been received. These half-yearly reports do not, however, show the profit or loss as these are dealt with only at the end of the year in the annual audit reports.

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 82–85 infra.